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~~(S)~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D C.

THE NRO STAFF

3 September 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. COOK
GENERAL SHIELDS //

SUBJECT: Unstreamlining of the NRO

The attached listing contains a few of the recent examples of outside interference or changes which have in one form or another impacted adversely on the streamlined management philosophy used to manage the National Reconnaissance Program.


Colonel, USAF

1 Attachment
Helpers List

CLASSIFIED BY  FROM
GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652 EXEMPTION CATEGORY
EXEMPTION CATEGORY 222 DECLASSIFY ON IMP OF 1

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EXAMPLES OF EROSION OF NRO
STREAMLINED MANAGEMENT AND
CONTROL OF THE NRP
(HELPERS LIST)

West Coast Trip for Mr. Hyland

We were asked by Colonel Rosenberg to set up an agenda for a West Coast trip by Mr. William Hyland so that he could see NRO hardware and meet with Program A people. [redacted] office verbally directed that we would not prepare the agenda but that his office would. At one point [redacted] told us that we were not to include a visit to the SAFSP complex; Dr. Cook intervened to change this position. Ultimately, [redacted] called the NRO Staff asking for help in setting up the trip which we did.

HAC S&I Review

The House Appropriations Committee sent a team to review and write a report on the NRO prior to acting on the FY 78 budget. The team, which entered the Staff on 2 July 1976, consisted of three people, augmented by a fourth person on 1 September. Their task will last into May or June of 1977.

ASD(I)/DDI Staff

Since the creation of the ASD(I) Staff in 1972, we have had an ever increasing interface. For a long while, the Assistant Secretary was the DOD member of the Executive Committee. In May 1976, the additional function of Director of Defense Intelligence was added to the ASD(I) job. At this time, Deputy Secretary of Defense Ellsworth specifically directed that the DNRO would report to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense through the ASD(I)/DDI.

IC Staff

Since its creation in 1972, the IC Staff has also had an increasing interface with the NRO.

STRAPS

COMIREX has a contract with TRW to develop a photographic mission planning software system which will duplicate a

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responsibility which is solely that of the National
Reconnaissance Office.

CFID on Congressional Relations

The CFI has promulgated a proposed directive setting forth the manner in which the Intelligence Community agencies will conduct Congressional relations, budget appeals and reprogramming procedures. This directive requires a greater interface between the NRO and the CFI than has existed in the past when we dealt directly with Congress.

NRO Charter

On 31 August 1976, [REDACTED] sent a memorandum to Admiral Murphy providing comments on the draft NRO Charter. These comments would bring NSA into the development of SIGINT reconnaissance satellites and would exclude the DNRO from defending the NRP budget to Congress. We were not given the opportunity to comment before [REDACTED] memorandum was dispatched.

Budget Data Requirements

On 17 August 1976, Admiral Murphy established budget data requirements for the Fall 1976 NFIP budget review which specifically included the NRO. Despite our previous understanding, the NRO is to be included in the normalized cycle.

Studies Required for Budget Decisions

On 20 August 1976, Admiral Murphy signed out a memorandum requiring certain studies required for budget decisions by the CFI in October and November 1976. The NRO was specifically tasked to do a number of studies.

Clearances for OSD/LA

On 31 August 1976, the ASD(I)/DDI Staff requested an immediate same-day [REDACTED] clearance be granted to an action officer in OSD Legislative Affairs to support ASD(I)/DDI liaison with members of Congress and their staffs on the

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HANDLE VIA
[REDACTED]

details of National Reconnaissance Program activities and resources. (DIA asked for our approval and we denied the request.)

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